

# TRIES TO KILL GIRLS, BLOWS HIMSELF UP

## SOUTH POLE REACHED BY BRITISH NAVAL OFFICER

WEATHER—Rain Probable To-night and Friday.

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### Airman Coffyn in His Hydroplane Entertains Big Battery Crowd



### SOUTH POLE FOUND BY SCOTT IS NEWS FROM AMUNDSEN SAID ALSO TO HAVE WON

Norwegian Explorer First Back From Antarctic, Gives His British Rival Honor.

HE ALSO GOT TO GOAL?

Climax of Sensational Race South, Recalls the Peary-Cook North Pole Affair.

WELLINGTON, New Zealand, March 7.—Capt. Roald Amundsen, the Norwegian explorer, who has arrived at Hobart, Tasmania, on his return from the antarctic, states that Capt. Robert F. Scott, the British explorer, has found the South Pole.

Capt. Amundsen, who was a rival of Capt. Scott in the hunt for the South Pole, appears to be strangely silent on his own achievements. So far as known, he has made no statement whatever as to whether he also reached the antarctic goal. As he is apparently receding homeward ahead of Scott, being two weeks ahead of his own schedule, this is taken as significant and recalls the Peary-Cook affair, in which Dr. Cook beat Peary to civilization and gathered in a lot of glory. Amundsen's statement of his own doings is therefore awaited with keen interest.

There are conflicting reports here concerning Amundsen, some saying that he reached the Pole and others that he did not. All the world has been interested in the struggles of explorers of five different nationalities to attain the South Pole. Capt. Amundsen's arrival at Hobart, following quickly on yesterday's report that Capt. Scott had been successful, has increased the interest. Capt. Amundsen and Capt. Scott are close personal friends. They met just before they started the race for the Pole, and when they parted, each to pursue his own plans, they wished each other success.

Capt. Amundsen, whose expedition was a smaller one than that of Scott, had a slight advantage over Scott, owing to his base of operations being 30 miles nearer to the goal than that of his opponent. Their equipment varied in many re-

### DR. ABRAMS WINS HIS DIVORCE SUIT

Jury Thinks He Deserves Decree From Wife, Who Planned "Affinity Party."

The proposed "affinity party" and other improprieties of his comely wife won a verdict this afternoon for Dr. Alexander Abrams in his suit for divorce from Mrs. Amelia Fendler-Abrams, herself a physician. The case had been on trial before Justice Goff and a jury in the Supreme Court for four days. The jury returned its verdict in favor of the husband after deliberating one hour.

The couple were married twenty years ago and have a pretty eighteen-year-old daughter, Lillian. The latter was a witness in her mother's defense. She remained with Mrs. Abrams throughout the trial. When the mother broke down and sobbed hysterically while under a rapid-fire cross-examination by Dr. Abrams' lawyer, the beautiful young daughter rushed to her side and did what she could to console her.

Dr. Abrams charged his wife with acting improperly with Henry M. Wolf, a wealthy San Francisco merchant. A former maid in her home at No. 139 Madison avenue told of big dinners and other "going-on" in the house whenever Wolf would come here from his Western home. Mrs. Abrams and her husband parted in 1907. She started suit for separation from him recently, alleging he held "the long distance" record, having been intoxicated for fifteen years, and she could no longer live with him. He retorted with a counter-claim for divorce. The counter suit was the first tried. A Justice in Special Term of the Supreme Court must now confirm the verdict of the jury, before Dr. Abrams will get his decree.

**BALLOT LAW CLAUSE VOID.**

ALBANY, March 7.—The provision of the election law declaring that the name of a candidate shall not be voted more than once on a ballot to be voted on for the same public office or party position was held to be unconstitutional by the Court of Appeals to-day.

### BIG FIRE MENACES BUSINESS SECTION OF ROCHESTER

Entire Department Called Out to Save Federal Building and Others in Peril.

ROCHESTER, March 7.—The entire city fire department was called to fight a fire that broke out before 3 o'clock this afternoon in an automobile saleroom on State street, and has spread to an adjoining building. Large quantities of gasoline caught fire. The blaze was in a thickly-settled retail district and menaced the business quarter.

At 2:15 the fire had eaten its way into a four-story building occupied by the Clark Paint, Oil and Glass Company, to the north. This building was stored with oil and other inflammable materials, and Chief Little expressed the opinion that if the flames got a foothold there a serious conflagration would result.

The Federal Building and post-office were separated from the rear of the burning building only by a narrow alley and were considered to be in danger. Billows of smoke are pouring into them.

Late today the fire was burning furiously and heavy damage seemed inevitable. Two firemen were injured by a flare-back of gasoline.

**CHARLESTON RESULTS.**

FIRST RACE—Four-year-olds and up; purse \$200, selling. Five and one-half furlongs—Charles Strawn, III (Martin), 20 to 1, 3 to 1, and 3 to 1; Martini (Penny), 10 to 1, 5 to 1, and 5 to 1; and 5 to 1. Time, 1:12.5. Second—Buck (Penny), 12 to 1, 5 to 1, and 5 to 1; and 5 to 1. Time, 1:12.5. Third—Buck (Penny), 12 to 1, 5 to 1, and 5 to 1; and 5 to 1. Time, 1:12.5. Fourth—Buck (Penny), 12 to 1, 5 to 1, and 5 to 1; and 5 to 1. Time, 1:12.5.

SECOND RACE—Four-year-olds and up; purse \$200, selling. Five and one-half furlongs—Charles Strawn, III (Martin), 20 to 1, 3 to 1, and 3 to 1; Martini (Penny), 10 to 1, 5 to 1, and 5 to 1; and 5 to 1. Time, 1:12.5. Third—Buck (Penny), 12 to 1, 5 to 1, and 5 to 1; and 5 to 1. Time, 1:12.5. Fourth—Buck (Penny), 12 to 1, 5 to 1, and 5 to 1; and 5 to 1. Time, 1:12.5.

### SHE ADMITS GUILT, BLAMES HUSBAND AND LURE OF CLUB

Mrs. Davidson Declares She Won't Defend Suit and Will Wed Co-respondent.

Mrs. Sarah Davidson, the beautiful young wife of Harry C. Davidson, a member of the Manhattan Club and head of the Savoy Shirt Company, made an amazingly frank statement in her apartment in the Narrows Hotel, No. 206 Broadway, today concerning her husband's suit for divorce which has been begun by the filing of a summons in the County Clerk's office.

"The young woman pleaded guilty to the offense charged against her and which furnishes the statutory grounds for divorce in this State. She is about thirty years old, tall and beautifully formed. She wore a tailor-made suit and was about to go out as The Evening World reporter called. She sat down calmly and said almost without emotion:

"I was caught and has no defense, she says."

"Yes, I am the Sarah Davidson named in Harry C. Davidson's suit for divorce. There is really not much for me to say. I was caught and I have no defense. I can make no defense and do not care to fight the suit. It is all the result of my husband being a clubman and being engaged in a business that keeps him away from me six months at a time."

"What could you expect? Separation between man and wife is a dangerous thing. I believe in the axiom that absence makes the heart grow fonder of somebody else."

"I was left at home with nothing to do but twiddle my thumbs and look at the pictures on the wall; yes, and for six months at a time. It grew monotonous. I have been married ten years. I was very young—a mere child—when I was married. During my married life Mr. Davidson's business took him away from me on an average about six months a year."

"While he was absent I met the co-respondent, whose name I do not care to mention. He was attentive and kind to me, and I grew to love him. Strange to say, he is much older than my husband."

### SCHEFFELS TRIAL ENDED AT LAST BY PLEAS OF GUILTY

George Graham Rice Sentenced to One Year, Beginning Dec. 29 Last.

The Scheffels trial, which has been in progress in the United States District Court for the past five months, came to a dramatic close this afternoon, when George Graham Rice, leader of the firm and the admitted brains of the combination, and Bernard H. Scheffels pleaded guilty. With their associates, Charles F. Heiser, Charles H. Stone and Ralph E. Waterman, they have been on trial for alleged conspiracy and misuse of the mails.

Rice was sentenced to one year in jail, his sentence beginning Dec. 29 last, when he was put in the Tombs after one of the jurors had been approached. With time off for good behavior, Rice will really spend about six months and a half in jail.

Scheffels got off with a suspended sentence and the other three defendants also went free, the indictment being quashed.

The pleading was not wholly a surprise. Yesterday Rice held a long conference with United States District Attorney Wile.

Rice after his plea gave out a statement in which he said he was induced to plead guilty because he and his associates were financially ruined. "B. H. Scheffels & Company did nothing except what is and has been commonly practiced in Wall street by the most reputable stock exchange houses," he said. "I know the methods were fair and honest, as measured by the best standards of the street. We, however, committed the unpardonable and never-forgotten crime of attacking without fear or favor the mining securities markets."

"I pleaded guilty only when all my resources and those of my friends had been exhausted. I was up against it. The Government has more money than it knows what to do with, and I was down to my last cent."

**JERSEY SENATOR GUILTY OF ATTEMPTING EXTORTION**

But a Party Vote Will Save Fitzherbert From Expulsion From the Senate.

### AVIATOR COFFYN AGAIN SKIMS BAY IN HIS BIRD-BOAT

Makes Startling Flights From Water's Surface and Circles Big Statue.

Frank T. Coffyn swooped and climbed and dipped over New York Bay in his hydro-aeroplane to-day under the approving eye of Wilbur Wright, inventor of the machine, who had come from Dayton, O., to see his ex-pupil perform. Wright had not seen Coffyn since the most in Chicago last September, when Coffyn was flying the ordinary Wright aeroplane. The pontoons on the machine are Coffyn's own design, made last November, and to-day was the first time Wilbur Wright had ever seen a Wright hydro-aeroplane leave the water.

Coffyn's flight was only 3 minutes and 45 seconds, during which he performed the usual evolutions of exhibition, more for the benefit of the inventor than from any desire. When the Wright manual was over he began a series of spirals and "figure eights" for the master on shore.

**ON WATER OR AIR BY TURNS, HE SKIMS.**

His flight took him over the Statue of Liberty and to the Staten Island shore, returning over Governor's Island. Near the sea wall at the Battery he landed on the water at full speed and rose and landed at will. On his return to the raft he was congratulated by Wilbur Wright and his companion, Henry A. Wise Wood, who predicted big things as the result of Coffyn's latest stunts around the harbor showing the reliability of the hydro-aeroplane.

Coffyn promised a later attempt to take complete moving pictures over the bridges. So far all attempts to return safely with the coveted pictures have proved failures. Coffyn, in common with all aviators, believes in hoodoo and is going to execute what he believes is a piece of state diplomacy with the machine.

He will head it for the bay and circle a few times, just as if nothing out of the way was about to happen, and then suddenly turn round for the bridge before the machine has time to realize what it is doing.

How successful the move will be only the result after landing can tell, but Coffyn thinks it is a good idea and will do no harm to try.

Coffyn will carry a new invention called a planometer, invented by Somersfield Curtis, who has loaned it for the flight. It is a combined compass and indicator, showing the elevation and destination of the machine at all times, and is designed particularly for flying in foggy weather.

**AGED BROKER STRUCK BY CAR.**

Aaron Ullman, seventy years old, a broker, was knocked down by a north-bound surface car as he was crossing Ninth avenue at Thirty-fourth street shortly after noon to-day. He was taken to New York Hospital badly shaken up. Ullman lives at No. 99 Southern Boulevard, Bronx.

**"IMPROVES WITH AGE."**

Next number of "PUN" the sixteen-page Weekly Book, given free with the Sunday World, is the best yet prepared. This paragraph is written after a glance over an advance copy just up from the Color Press.

### DAUGHTERS OF RECTOR ATTACKED BY EMPLOYEE, WHO KILLS HIMSELF

George Mead, Caretaker of the Estate of Rev. Frank Hartfield at Brewster, Lures Young Women to Barn of Country Estate.

### FELLS THEM WITH A CLUB AS THEY ENTER THE DOOR

Sets Off a Stick of Dynamite When He Sees Rescuers Approaching; Intended Victims Uninjured.

After an attack on the two daughters of the Rev. Frank Hartfield, rector of the Episcopal Church at Brewster, Putnam County, N. Y., George Mead, caretaker of the Hartfield estate, blew himself up yesterday afternoon. He had planned to overcome both girls and kill them and himself with the explosive.

Mead accomplished his spectacular suicide in a barn on the Hartfield place. The barn was partially demolished. The body of the gardener was picked up in sections and removed to his home on the outskirts of Brewster, where he lived with his wife.

**ONE GIRL ESCAPED AND RAN FOR AID.**

The Hartfield girls, Ruby and Amy, aged eighteen and twenty, respectively, are prostrated by the shock of their experience and have been unable to give a connected story of the happening. Evidence left after the explosion appears to show that Mead carefully schemed to commit a double murder and suicide, and was foiled by the fact that one of the girls was able to escape from the trap he had set and run for assistance.

The scene of the tragedy is in the fashionable estate section of Brewster and is across the road from the extensive country place of H. H. Vreeland, the street railway man. The property belongs to Rev. Dr. Hartfield's mother-in-law, Mrs. Hower.

**HIG HOUSE CLOSED FOR WINTER.**

In order to save the expense and trouble of keeping up a big place through the winter the Hartfield family closed the house three months ago and went to live in a smaller residence on the other side of town. Mead, who had been employed as a coachman and gardener, was entrusted with the care of the estate. His home was nearby and he spent most of his time on the Hartfield property.

Persons who had spoken to Mead recently recall that he appeared to be wild in his conversation. It is believed he conceived a grudge against the Hartfield family, possibly from the fact that the closing of the house during the winter placed him on smaller wages than he would have drawn had it been left open.

Mead telephoned to Dr. Hartfield yesterday morning that one of the shutters on the second floor of the house had become loosened by the wind the night before and asked that the key be sent over so that he might make repairs. It is believed the gardener invented this subterfuge for no shutter has been found out of place—in order to get Dr. Hartfield or some member of his family within his reach.

Dr. Hartfield told Mead he would send his daughters over in the afternoon with the key. The girls drove from their home to the estate on the other side of town in a pony cart.

**GIRLS START ON A HUNT FOR MEAD.**

They did not see Mead when they reached the estate and, trying the pony in the road at the front, they entered the grounds and walked to the barn. After calling for Mead and receiving no reply, they entered the building.

Mead, who had been watching their approach, was waiting for them inside the door with a club in his hand. As they entered he brought the club down on the head of Ruby Hartfield and knocked her to her knees. Thinking he had finished her, he turned his attention to Miss Amy and told her with a single blow.

Ruby Hartfield had been protected from the full force of the blow by her hair and her hat. She got to her feet and staggered out of the barn, screaming. Mead started after her, but by that time her cries had attracted the attention of a laborer on the Vreeland estate who had started across the road on a run.

The sight of the approaching laborer prompted Mead to return to the barn. Ruby Hartfield, when she saw she was not followed, ran back after Mead intent on the rescue of her sister. As Ruby approached the barn Amy appeared at the door, crawling on her hands and knees. Ruby lifted her up and together they staggered away, meeting the man from the Vreeland place.

**MEAD'S FACE SEEN AT A WINDOW.**

Other persons residing or working in the vicinity were on their way to the Hartfield property by this time. They could be seen in the fields and along the road. The man from Vreeland's place and the girls, standing at some distance from the barn, saw Mead's face at the window of the harness room. Mead dodged back out of sight.

A moment later there was a terrific explosion. Part of the end of the barn was blown out and a portion of the roof caved in. Through the gaps in the walls the spectators could see the shattered interior of the harness room, but there was no sign of Mead.

The explosion, following so closely upon the attack they had suffered, was too much for the overwrought Hartfield girls. They collapsed, and were assisted to the Vreeland place, where a doctor attended them.

In the meantime the neighbors had begun an investigation of the ruins of the